

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3590
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2012
HARASSMENT BY CUSTOMS OFFICERS
Antony Shri Anto

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of Gold and Non Resident Indian (NRI) can bring to the country without paying customs duty;
- (b) whether the Government has received any complaints from NRIs or from any other quarter regarding harassment by Customs officials at various airports in connection with imposing tax on carrying gold;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has any plan to change existing rule in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

- (a) As per Rule 6 of Baggage Rules, 1998 an Indian gentleman and lady passenger who has been residing abroad for over one year and returning to India can clear free of duty jewellery in his/her bonafide baggage upto an aggregate value of Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 20,000/-, respectively.
- (b) Yes, Madam.
- (c) Complaints of harassments and bribes have been received in the cases where jewellery in excess of the permissible limits have been brought. The complaints have been investigated. In most of the cases details of date of arrival of passenger, flight numbers, name of official who demanded bribe etc. have not been provided by the complainant even when the department has written to them.
- (d) There are no plans at present to change the existing rules.
- (e) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (d) above.